

**DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS**

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**TO THE CALIFORNIA BOATER:**

Each year, millions of boaters visit California's waterways seeking an enjoyable outdoor recreational experience. To ensure that boating in California is safe and enjoyable for everyone, it is important for all who use our waterways to know and abide by the regulations found in this book.

The more you know about boating and boating laws, the safer and more enjoyable your boating experiences will be. To order a boating safety course you can take at home, see the postcard in this pamphlet.

California Boating Law applies to the operation of vessels on all waters within territorial limits, including coastal waters. California law, in general, does not replace the United States Coast Guard and other federal regulations in force on federally navigable waters, but is in general conformity with these laws.

The "ABCs of the California Boating Law" is based upon the California Harbors and Navigation Code, Vehicle Code, Penal Code and California Code of Regulations, but does not adhere to legal text. Not all provisions of law pertaining to boating are included. It is consequently not suitable for use in law enforcement or in litigation of any nature.

Through common sense, courtesy afloat, and sober boating, you can enhance the enjoyment and safety of our waterways.

Have a pleasant and safe boating season!

RAYNOR TSUNEYOSHI

Director